Well summer is almost over! Hope most of you enjoyed whatever sunshine we had amid the clouds and rain we have been having this year.

The CAD Board had its annual general meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba in July. The affiliates discussed many issues of importance to the Deaf community of Canada. The CAD Board and affiliates participated in group discussions determining what our priorities and plans of action should be over the next 5 years.

We then participated in the Deaf Canada Conference (DCC) hosted right after our AGM. WOW, it was fun to see all our old friends and great meeting new ones. Many of us participated in workshops learning new information to bring back to our community and take action on. Thanks to the DCC Committee for their hard work in making this event a success. We now wait patiently for the next DCC event taking place in Quebec City in 2006.

Highlights for CAD during the CAD AGM and DCC ’04 event are:

1. We have committed ourselves to work together to see that the ASL/LSQ Language becomes a Law within the next two years.
2. We will work together to see that the Canadians With Disabilities Act becomes Law.
3. Clifford Beaulieu, a Deaf Native from Manitoba has been selected respectively to serve on the CAD Board as the first Deaf Native Director.
4. The CAD Jr. Leadership Camp for age 18 – 30 will be hosted in 2005 and CAD will work in partnership with the Manitoba Deaf Association.
These are some of our accomplishments and the commitments we have made for the following year and beyond. We will need your commitment and support to achieve these goals. We ask that you keep checking CAD’s website at www.cad.ca to get information and updates on our progress, etc.

On behalf of the CAD Board we thank the following Board members who will be departing: Diane Farley from Nova Scotia, Beverley Dooley from Ontario (leaving us in October), and Grant Underschultz from Alberta. We thank you for your commitment and hard work with CAD and Deaf Canadians. We wish you all the best in your endeavors!

We now continue to roll up our sleeves towards another exciting year! Your commitment to working with us will assist in breaking down barriers and discrimination against Deaf people. CAD is here to ensure our success in every way and to improve the lives of Deaf people across Canada.

Chris Kenopic
President - CAD

Remembering Dr. Tanis Doe and her vast contributions to Deaf rights

It is with our deepest sadness that we report the passing of Dr. Tanis Doe. She passed away suddenly in her home in Victoria, British Columbia late Wednesday, August 4, 2004, due to a pulmonary embolism.

Tanis was an educator, advocate for Deaf issues, but most importantly an immense contributor to many of CAD’s projects. Tanis was a member of CAD’s Board of Director first as a Secretary in 1987 and later as a Director in 1988 and 1989. Also, during that time she wrote a report on Deaf disability issues, titled ‘The Integration of the Deaf Into the Cross-Disability Movement: Communication and Co-operation.’ A report that examined why Deaf people were reluctant to integrate with the disability movement. Later she also prepared another report, which helped significantly with un-employment and under-employment of Deaf people. This report was titled ‘Deaf Employment Paths,’ which she wrote in 2000.

Tanis’ contributions to Deaf rights will never be forgotten.

Tanis will be sadly missed by daughter Ann Marie, friends, family, colleagues, and anyone who had the opportunity to have their lives impacted by this wonderful woman.

A memorial webpage and guest book have been set up and can be viewed at http://dawn.thot.net/tanis/

Award of Merit

Laverne O. Foster received an Award of Merit at this year’s Deaf Canadian Conference held in Winnipeg for his longtime efforts in the Deaf community.

Laverne’s involvement began in 1945 when he founded the Saskatoon Association of the Deaf (SAD.) He then went on to become President from 1947 to 1948 and then again in 1950 until 1951. He took only a small step back accepting a role as Vice-President from 1956 to 1957 and again in 1962 and 1963. During that time he also held an important role as Treasurer in 1949 to 1950.

Laverne decided to spread out his efforts throughout the Deaf community and he became involved in the Federation of Silent Sports of Saskatchewan in 1963 and remained active until 1980, when the name of the organization changed to Saskatchewan Deaf Sports Association. During this time he recruited young athletes for national and international sports competitions.

In 1992 he founded the Saskatoon Deaf Seniors Club and was the first Secretary and is now the Vice-President. Laverne also was a vocational teacher at the Saskatchewan School for the Deaf in Saskatoon until he retired in 1990. He helped the SAD celebrate their 50th anniversary in 1995 by writing their history.

This is not the first time Laverne has been recognized; he received an honorary member award from the SAD in 1978.
Lavern turned 80 on June 23rd. He lives in Saskatoon with his wife Emma and their five sons. Congratulations!

**A summer at CAD – an experience not taken for granted**

Calling someone on the phone or ordering at a restaurant, both common occurrences I used to take for granted, now make me realize how lucky I am, how these simple things people do several times a day aren’t so easy for everyone. Reflecting back on my summer at the Canadian Association of the Deaf (CAD) I realize what an eye opening experience it has been.

I joined the small team at the CAD as the summer communications student, but little did I know that I’d be learning about so much more than writing proposals and designing newsletters. This was an opportunity to get a first hand look into the Deaf community and to learn a few signs along the way.

Several years ago I was babysat by a Deaf woman and at the time I can remember being so fascinated by how easily she held an entire conversation with her hands. Now many years later, my interest has been peaked once again. CAD has been more than just a job – I have had so many significant experiences.

I began my summer with the tedious task of cleaning out the e-mail account. Only 2,739 junk e-mails and I was home free. But more importantly, I had the opportunity to learn about hearing aids, schools for the Deaf, and Deaf organization all over the world. It was quite intriguing to learn about so many of the issues facing Deaf people. As a hearing person some these issues had never crossed my mind. I had a small glimpse at what a Deaf person might experience in a hearing world when I was involved in a conversation and was the only person who could not sign. Within minutes I was completely lost and assumed this was an experience too familiar to a Deaf person venturing into the hearing world.

I am now ready to wrap-up my summer and take with me the gained work experience, but most importantly I will remember the wonderful time I spent learning about a lot more than the day-to-day operations. The time and patience I was shown did not go unnoticed. For my sake I’m very lucky everyone at the CAD are excellent lip readers. I felt proud to spend a summer as part of an association that can empower so many Deaf Canadians.

Since our initial planning conference held in Ottawa on April 2 and 3, 2004, *Bridge of Signs* has seen significant development. Attached you will find my most recent report which was presented at the Deaf Canada Conference in Winnipeg, July 21, 2004.

To date, we have hired the project coordinator, Michel Lelièvre, the research assistant, Tamara Witcher and regretfully, accepted the resignation of the project assistant, Stephanie Duguay as she has accepted the opportunity to pursue training as a teacher. In addition to our project team, efforts made have assured new partnerships across Canada and we look forward to confirming our working relationships with those in provinces and territories alike.

In terms of the project methodology, the project coordinator has worked in collaboration with the project director to develop a research process, a training model and other project related materials. In turn, the project director and research assistant have worked closely to gather numerous articles and begun to compose an extensive literature review that has informed the development of the implementation model. Based on this research and to provide clarification on the use of ASL and LSQ in the model, a companion paper has been developed and is available for the asking.

In keeping with the goal of examining the use of sign language as a communication tool for non-Deaf
children between the ages of 0-6 who have developmental disorders, children who have been diagnosed with such disorders as Autism, Downs Syndrome, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, and learning disabilities will be included in this study. With the assistance of professionals in the field, Bridge of Signs will design and implement a model program that will teach children, as well as those who work with them, sign language—both ASL and LSQ.

As the research methodology has been defined, submissions for permission to conduct research have been submitted to selected school boards across Canada. Once approval is received, the schools, parents, and disability associations will be contacted and individual children placed in their respective experimental (the hearing children) or control (the deaf children) groups. To support the training that will be given, Deaf CAD Board members and mentors will be invited to lend their support as ASL and LSQ are taught to children in their various sites.

For the purpose of training, a plan has been made to hold the first training in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on October 29, 2004. We are hoping to welcome representatives from each school board approved and the local disability associations who serve the children of each of those boards for dinner on October 28th and a full training day using the new model as it has been drafted in CD and manual form. Because we value the input of the CAD directors in supporting and assisting teachers and parents implement Bridge of Signs, CAD directors will be included at the dinner and the training day. Based on the feedback received, the model will be refined and a further training will be held with teachers, their assistants, the parents, the disability association representatives, the CAD directors and any Deaf mentors willing to support the project in the respective locations of implementation. At this point, we are anticipating holding this second training within six weeks of the first so that all will be in place for formal implementation January to June 2005.

For any persons wanting to receive a copy of the report presented at the CAD Deaf Canada Conference by e-mail, please contact me at the address below.

Thank you for your continued interest in Bridge of Signs. We look forward to our future work together.

Sincerely,
Dr. Anne Toth, R.S.W.,
Project Director, Bridge of Signs,
atoth@xcelco.on.ca

ANOTHER STREET TO HONOUR DEAF LEADERS

The photo shows Emerson Roots, age 13, pointing to the sign that names a street in honour of the late Robert McBrien.

McBrien was a founding member and first President of the Canadian Association of the Deaf. He remained President for an incredible 27 years!

McBrien fought to get more Deaf Canadians into post-secondary education and he also helped them look for good jobs. Eugene Fowler, famous Deaf runner, always talks reverently of McBrien as the Deaf leader who inspired him to run to raise money for Deaf education and Deaf children.

McBrien Street joins (Eleanor) McPeake Place and (David and Polly) Peikoff Crescent as streets honouring Deaf Canadians. All of the streets are in the same neighbourhood of Morgan’s Grant in Kanata, Ontario, west of Ottawa.

Jim Roots, CAD Executive Director who is responsible for getting these street names approved,
says he has been assured there are three or four more Deaf names being considered for new streets in the same neighbourhood. However, they will likely not be approved until next year.

**Fun Events**

Come celebrate Deaf Awareness Week! The Manitoba Deaf Association hosts *Gala Evening – a night of cocktails, mingling, and dance.*

Saturday, **September 25**th, 2004 at Deaf Centre Manitoba 285 Pembina Hwy. Winnipeg, Manitoba.

For more information please contact the Manitoba Deaf Association at manitobadeaf@mts.net

Tickets will be available after August 15th, and the deadline for registration is September 22nd.

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Join the Manitoba School for the Deaf in their **40th Anniversary Celebration**. There are three days packed full of events, *a wine and cheese reception, tours of Winnipeg, a sports activity banquet*, and much more.

Join them **October 6-8**, 2005.

For more information contact them at lmitchell@msd.winnipeg.mb.ca, phone 204-945-8934 or fax 204-945-1767.

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We would like to thank our contributors, Chris Kenopic, President of CAD Board of Directors, Dr. Anne Toth, Project Director, Bridge of Signs, Jessica Kendrick, summer communications student.